

Spotted Sandpiper – *Actitis macularius*

Habitat Requirements:

Look for Spotted Sandpipers anywhere near water and rocky shores. They are commonly seen near freshwater and forested regions.

Diet:

The Spotted Sandpiper eats mostly invertebrates such as midges, flies, grasshoppers, beetles, worms, snails and small crustaceans by probing their bills into sand and mud. They will also lunge at moving prey. They will also eat small and dead fish.

Fun Facts:

- The Spotted Sandpiper is the most widespread breeding sandpiper in North America.
- Female Spotted Sandpipers establish and defend territory while males protect and care for the young.
- Spotted Sandpipers have a distinct teetering motion, bobbing up and down while moving. It has been nicknamed Teeter-Peep, Jerk-Bird and Tip-Tail.



Summer Resident

Belted Kingfisher – *Megasceryle alcyon*

Habitat Requirements:

The Belted Kingfisher digs into soft banks in the earth and nests in burrows, usually near streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and estuaries. They can also be found on tree branches near these bodies of water while hunting.

Diet:

These Kingfishers feed almost entirely on aquatic prey, diving to catch fish, crayfish, mollusks, insects, small amphibians, reptiles and even other birds.

Fun Facts:

- The Belted Kingfisher got its name from the blue and chestnut bands, or belts, around its chest region.
- This bird will dive head first into water to catch its prey then return to its branch to eat. Sometimes they will even drop dead fish into the water to teach their young how to dive.
- Have a very loud machine-gun like call.



Year-Round Resident

Green Heron – *Butorides virescens*

Habitat Requirements:

Green Herons usually nest along swamps, marshes, lakes, ponds and other wet habitats with trees and shrubs to provide secluded nest sites. They may even nest in dry woods and orchards, as long as water is nearby.

Diet:

Green Herons mainly eat small fish such as minnows, sunfish, catfish, carp, perch, eels and goldfish. They also feed on insects, spiders, crustaceans, rodents, and small amphibians and reptiles.

Fun Facts:

- When hunting, the Green Heron stands still at the water's edge and lunges and darts its long neck and head, grasping or spearing its prey.
- The Green Heron is one of the world's few tool-using bird species. Sometimes they will lure in fish by placing a stick or insect on the surface of the water.
- Sometimes it looks like the Green Heron doesn't have a neck because it places its head so close to its body.



Summer Resident

Great Blue Heron – *Ardea herodias*

Habitat Requirements:

Great Blue Herons can be found in fresh or saltwater habitats, from open coasts, riverbanks, marshes, lakes and ponds. They also forage in grasslands and agricultural fields.

Diet:

Great Blue Herons will eat pretty much anything within striking distance, including fish, insects, small mammals, other birds and reptiles and amphibians.

Fun Facts:

- The Great Blue Heron has a thick, dagger like bill, and long legs and neck. It usually only weighs 5 to 6 pounds because of its hollow bones, but is still the largest of the North American Herons.
- These Herons usually nest together in colonies of up to 100 birds.
- Great Blue Herons fly with their wings held in a cupped fashion while holding neck in an s-shape.



Year-Round Resident

Wood Duck – *Aix sponsa*

Habitat Requirements:

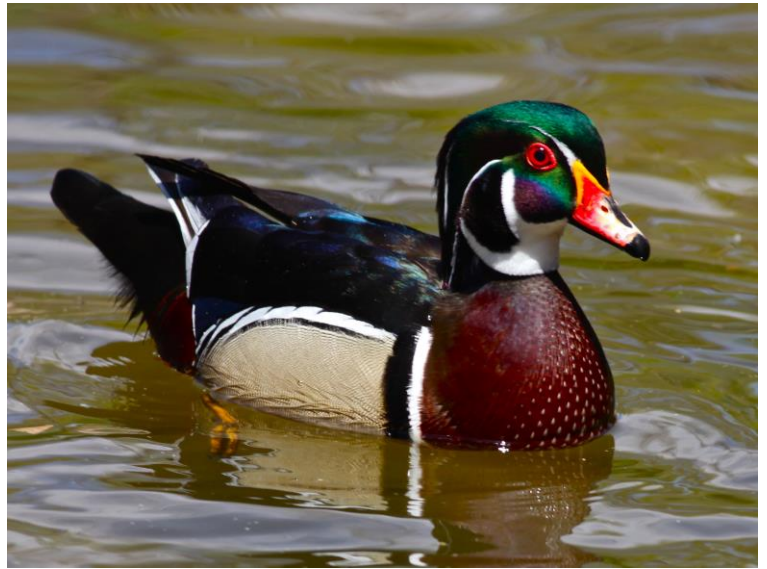
Woods Ducks nest in trees near or right above water. They can be found in wooded swamps, marshes, streams, ponds and lakes. They stick around wet areas with extensive trees and cattails.

Diet:

Plant material makes up about 80% of the Wood Ducks diet. They eat seeds, fruits, insects and other arthropods. When aquatic foods are unavailable they will take to dry lands and eat acorns and other nuts from forests and grain from fields.

Fun Facts:

- The Wood Duck is said to be one of the most stunningly pretty of all waterfowl.
- Young Wood Ducks stay in their nest only 24 hours after hatching, then just from up to 30 feet to the ground or water to follow their mother, never returning to their nest.
- Wood Ducks are one of the few duck species equipped with strong enough claws to grip bark and perch on branches.



Year-Round Resident

Pied-Billed Grebe – *Podilymbus podiceps*

Habitat Requirements:

The Pied-Billed Grebe lives on bodies of flat, sluggish, fresh, or slightly brackish water. This includes wetlands, bays, marshes, slow moving rivers and ponds and lakes.

Diet:

The Pied-Billed Grebe eats mostly crustaceans and small fish they crush with their powerful, stout bills. They acquire their food from diving under water.

Fun Facts:

- These Grebes usually create a nest in water on a platform of floating vegetation.
- Pied-Billed Grebes are master divers. They can trap water in their feathers to give them great control over their buoyancy, allowing them the sink deeply of stay just at or below the surface.
- When in danger, these Grebes make a “crash-dive” underwater to get away from a predator.



Summer Resident

Ruffed Grouse – *Bonasa umbellus*

Habitat Requirements:

Ruffed Grouse prefer areas with scattered clearings safeguarded by a mix of different type of trees. They can also be seen perched on tree branches and areas alongside streams.

Diet:

A nutritious diet for a Ruffed Grouse consists of leaves, buds and twigs in winter and seeds and fruits of various plants in summer.

Fun Facts:

- Ruffed Grouses have the ability to break down bitter, often toxic plants other birds can't digest
- Wild Turkeys and Ring-necked Pheasants sometimes lay their eggs in Ruffed Grouses' nests.
- Male grouses stand atop elevated surfaces with their crest, ruff and tail raised, puff up to double its normal size and flap their wings to produce a quick-succession drumming sound when appealing to females or protecting their territory.



Year-Round Resident

Wild Turkey – *Meleagris gallopavo*

Habitat Requirements:

Wild Turkeys can be found in old-growth forests, generally in areas with nut trees such as oak, hickory, or beech around edges and fields.

Diet:

Wild Turkeys feed on acorns, nuts, and berries that they look for in flocks, usually on the ground. They also climb into shrubs or low trees for fruits.

Fun Facts:

- While wild turkeys usually get around by walking, they can also run and fly when threatened.
- Male Wild Turkeys don't have a hand in raising their young, who are cared for by the female until they master finding food on their own.



Year-Round Resident

Ring-necked Pheasant – *Phasianus colchicus*

Habitat Requirements:

Ring-necked Pheasants live along rural roadsides, in agricultural areas with overgrown vegetation or recently harvested fields.

Diet:

Ring-necked Pheasants eat seeds, leaves, wild fruits, nuts and insects such as grasshoppers, beetles, and ants.

Fun Facts:

- Ring-necked Pheasants adjust to severe cold by staying dormant for a few days at a time.
- During the breeding season, male Pheasants compete and keep other males away from groups of females.
- The rooster-like crowing of a Pheasant can be heard from up to a mile away.



Year-Round Resident

American Woodcock – *Scolopax minor*

Habitat Requirements:

American Woodcocks can be found along shrubby forest floors of juvenile trees, old fields and wet meadows.

Diet:

American Woodcocks eat earthworms and other invertebrates they find digging through the soil such as ants, snails, spiders and beetles. They also eat some plants.

Fun Facts:

- American Woodcocks are noted for their elaborated courting ritual performed at dawn and dusk in spring.
- The large eyes of a woodcock are positioned high and towards the back of their skull, which helps stay alert for danger in the sky while their heads are down looking for food on the ground.
- Young woodcocks depend on their mother for food during the first week and usually leave the nests after.



Summer Resident

